

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. Canceled.

12. (currently amended) A method of making an upholstery tack strip comprising the steps of:

- (i) extruding a thermoplastic sleeve over a length of metal ribbon stock having at least one roughened lateral edge;
- (ii) removing a lengthwise section of the thermoplastic sleeve to expose a corresponding lengthwise surface region of the metal ribbon stock; and
- (iii) forming nail sections from said exposed corresponding surface regions of the metal ribbon stock which protrude outwardly therefrom.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (ii) is practiced so as to remove a pair of lengthwise sections of the thermoplastic sleeve so as to expose upper and lower surface regions of the metal ribbon stock.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (iii) is practiced so as to form generally triangularly shaped nail sections which extend outwardly from said bottom surface region of the metal ribbon stock.

15. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said sleeve is formed of a thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, nylons, polyesters, and polyvinyl chlorides.

16. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (ii) is practiced so as to remove a strip of thermoplastic material so as to expose a lower surface of said metal ribbon stock.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein step (iii) is practiced so as to form nail sections which extend outwardly from said lower surface of said metal ribbon stock.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein step (i) is practiced by passing the metal ribbon stock through a cross-head die, and coating molten thermoplastic material onto the metal ribbon stock in the die.

19. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (i) is practiced by passing the metal ribbon stock through a cross-head die, and coating molten thermoplastic material onto the metal ribbon stock in the die.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising, prior to step (i), the step of (i-1) roughening the at least one lateral edge of the metal ribbon stock.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein step (i-1) comprises roughening both lateral edges of the metal ribbon stock.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to step (i), the step of (i-1) passing the metal ribbon stock through a surface-roughening tool so as to roughen a surface thereof.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein step of (i-1) includes passing the metal ribbon stock through a surface-roughening tool so as to knurl the at least one lateral edge of the metal ribbon stock.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein each opposed lateral edge of the metal ribbon stock is knurled by the practice of step of (i-1).

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24, comprising, prior to step (i), the step of applying an adhesive to the metal ribbon stock.

26. (New) A method of making an upholstery tack strip comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a length of metal ribbon stock;
- (ii) extruding a molten thermoplastic material over a length of metal ribbon stock so as to form a composite strip preform comprised of the metal ribbon stock which is embedded within and coated entirely by a sleeve of the thermoplastic material; and thereafter
- (iii) punching nail sections from the composite strip preform.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein step (i) comprises providing a length of metal ribbon stock having a series of transverse ridges along a lengthwise extent of at least one lateral edge thereof.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein prior to step (i), there is practiced the step (i-1) of passing the metal ribbon stock through a knurling tool so as to form the series of transverse ridges along a lengthwise extent of the at least one lateral edge thereof.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein each opposed lateral edge of the metal ribbon stock is knurled by the practice of step of (i-1) so as to have the series of transverse ridges along a lengthwise extents thereof.